



# US Army Corps of Engineers

Institute for Water Resources

BUILDING STRONG®

## Achieving Environmental Sustainability

**Status:**                      **Project Manager:**

In Progress                      [Richard Cole](#)

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**Purpose:**                      The purpose of this project is to contribute to development of a systematic approach to and a conceptual basis for strategic management of issues that now impede achievement of environmental sustainability in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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**Objective:**                      The specific products and services planned to achieve project objectives include a 1) sustainability achievement framework report , 2) report on sustainability of freshwater biodiversity , 3) technical report review of nonmonetary measurement of environmental benefits, 4) technical report on a new environmental benefits metric (the Biodiversity Security Index, BSI), 5) BSI journal article, 6) BSI technical note, 7) BSI progress presentations (numerous), 8) technical report on BSI comparison with other metrics, 9) BSI improvements report, 10) an Actions for Change PDT Team draft report on Sustainability Principles and Definitions, 11) an AFC PDT Team draft report on status of sustainability in the USACE, 12) an AFC PDT Team draft report on sustainability policy recommendations, 13) an AFC PDT Team draft report on sustainability performance indicators, 14) journal article manuscript on sustainability, 15) publication on IWRM, and so on. Funding for this project has contributed either directly or indirectly (through concept development) to numerous completed, in-progress and planned reports in various forms.

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**Benefits:**                      The project contributes to Corps achievement of environmental sustainability. Specific outputs facilitating the benefit include 1) an issues management framework for sustainability improvement, 2) a new metric for measuring environmental benefit, 3) new sustainability definitions and statements of principle, 4) new assessment USACE sustainability status, 5) recommendations for policy changes, 6) performance indicators for measuring sustainability achievement, and a conceptual basis for 7) a focused research and development plan, 8) Integrated Resource Management and collaborative planning 9) a watershed-based regional systems approach to resource management planning, and 10) a systems approach to individual project planning, 11) an assessment of freshwater species sustainability status

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**Progress:** The milestones for this project take the form of written and oral reports. Two ERDC technical reports on the BSI metric are in final edit before publication. Two ERDC reports and one journal article are now in peer review. Four oral/poster presentations have been made specifically about the BSI. Two voice-over presentations are posted on the internet (ERDC site). One sustainability report (freshwater biodiversity sustainability) is approaching final draft ready for publication. Three sustainability reports are in review. Several draft reports are in preparation.

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